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# READINESS REPORT

FOR INDIVIDUAL RESERVISTS

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The official publication of the Headquarters Readiness and Integration Organization

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aspx

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#### **Detachment listing** can be found at:



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# **LEADERSHIP**



Col. Kelli A. Molter Commander



Chief Master Sgt. Billie M. Baber Group Superintendent



Master Sgt. Christopher J. Gracey First Sergeant

# **ABOUT HQ RIO**

The Headquarters Readiness and Integration Organization (HQ RIO) is located at Buckley Air Force Base, Colorado. Its mission is to seamlessly integrate wartime-ready Individual Reserve forces to meet Air Force and Combatant Commander requirements.

HQ RIO standardizes the processes for the Individual Reserve (IR) program. The IR force is comprised of Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA), who are accountable to the Air Force Reserve Command and assigned to funded, active component positions, and Participating Individual Ready Reservists (PIRR), who participate for points towards retirement only. There are more than 2,700 enlisted members and more than 4,500 officers in the IR. IMAs and PIRRs support more than 50 major commands, combatant commanders and government agencies.



Watch the "What is the Individual Reserve" video on YouTube: https://youtu.be/r0bMSNnYhUE.

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#### **NEWS BRIEFS**

#### **ARCNet outage**

ARCNet has been unavailable since Friday, July 26, 2019. The issue is being worked and will be resolved as soon as possible (there is no estimated time for completion).

For more information go to https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1923762/arcnet-outage/

#### **Share Your Adventure: Help the Reserve team grow through testimony**

Air Force Reserve Command Recruiting Service is going all in with a new peer referral campaign called Share Your Adventure. This program is the lead source generator for AFRC RS with one of four people referred by current Reservists joining the Air Force Reserve and is replacing the command's Get1Now campaign. For more information go to https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1888508/va-to-decrease-sgli-rates-effective-july-1/

#### **HQ RIO AFPAAS** webinar now online

Headquarters Readiness and Integration Organization (HQ RIO) released an Air Force Personnel Accountability and Assessment System (AFPAAS) webinar that can be viewed on the AFRC/A1RY media site. The video may also be downloaded to view at a later time. For more information go to https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1926330/individual-reservist-rdedb-application-deadline-fast-approaching/

#### Individual Reservist RDEDB application deadline fast approaching

The deadline is fast approaching for all Individual Reservist (IR) applications for the 2020-2021 Reserve Developmental Education Designation Board (RDEDB). All applications must be submitted via vPC to your servicing HQ RIO Detachment by August 28, 2019. For more information go to https://www.arpc.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1926330/individual-reservist-rdedb-application-deadline-fast-approaching/





For the very first time, Headquarters Readiness and Integration Organization has a Career Assistance Advisor for all Individual Reservists. Introducting Master Sgt. Ronald K. Brown!

What does the Career Assistance Advisor do for you?

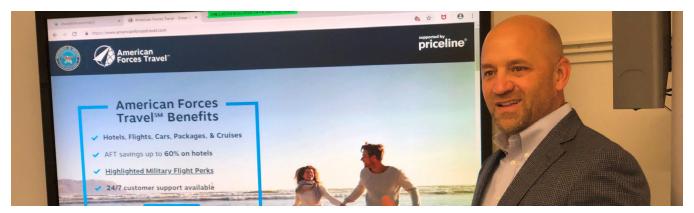
- Assists with ensuring bonus payments are being made
- Assists with any reenlistment or extension questions
- Provides career counseling to help navigate IR tour and beyond
- Provides insight into Professional Education opportunities such as the Enlisted Development Education Board (EDEB), the Reserve School Selection Board (RSSB) and the Reserve Designation Education Board (RDEDB)
- Provides assistance developing and maintaining Enlisted/Officer Development Plans (EDP/ODP)
- Manages the Blended Retirement System Continuation Pay process

Most importantly, your Career Assistance Advisor is here for you. If you have any questions regarding your career reach out to Master Sgt. Brown at the following numbers:

DSN: 847-3187 Comm: 720-847-3187 THE READINESS REPORT AUGUST 2019

# Travel Made Easy: Reservist plays critical role in new MWR discount travel website

By Bo Joyner, Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command Public Affairs



Ken Sorg, an individual mobilization augmentee chief master sergeant for the Air Force Reserve, helped lead the development of American-ForcesTravel.com as a civilian program analyst.

Discounted rates on airline flights, hotels, car rentals, cruises and event tickets are now available online for all current and retired Reserve Citizen Airmen and their eligible family members.

"AmericanForcesTravel.com is an exciting new benefit available to all service members. It is the only official Morale, Welfare and Recreation e-commerce site offering travel and event discounts to service members and their families," said Ken Sorg, an Air Force Reservist who helped lead the development of American Forces Travel.com while serving as a civilian program analyst on the Office of the Secretary of Defense staff.

Sorg, an individual mobilization augmentee chief master sergeant assigned to Headquarters Air Mobility Command's Manpower, Personnel and Services Directorate at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, said the perspective he has as an Air Force Reservist was critical as he led a three-year joint transformational effort to modernize the DoD MWR leisure travel program.

"That's the advantage we have as Reservists," he said. "We wear two hats so we bring two perspectives to the fight. While leading this working group, I always kept the Reserve as part of the conversation. We now have the opportunity to reach more than 800,000 Guard and Reservists who may not have had access to their earned MWR benefits before. Now, wherever their phone or computer is, they can access this travel/entertainment benefit and not have to live near an onbase Tickets and Tours office.

"This is a great service for all military members, but I think it's especially beneficial for Reservists and Guardsmen who may live hundreds of miles away from a base and aren't at their base every day."

The web site launched in January and Sorg said the response so far has been phenomenal. "We've had more than 270,000 authenticated patrons – people who have signed up and been authenticated on the site. The site has saved shoppers more than \$600,000 and generated \$425,000 to improve quality-of-life initiatives for the DoD," he said.

Sorg said American Forces Travel.com is unique in that the Joint Service's team worked with a commercial company to make it happen. "We entered into a no-cost contract with Priceline to create the American Forces Travel website," he said. "Priceline has the expertise in this area so we thought it didn't make sense for us to reinvent the wheel. Priceline maintains the site and pays the services a commission for every booking made. We take that money and put it into quality-of-life initiatives for our service members."

He said the site recently began offering discount event tickets in addition to discount travel options. "We started out with travel and we just added event tickets to the site and the response has been great. Anybody who has ordered event tickets from some of the popular web sites knows that there are often a lot of additional fees tacked on at the end. Patrons of AmericanForcesTravel.com won't find these on our site so they'll save a lot of money on their event tickets."

Sorg said that since the internet is now easily the most popular way to research and book travel, it made sense for the Joint Services to offer an MWR discount travel website. He said the success of AmericanForcesTravel.com should lead to more collaborative and transformative MWR efforts in the future.

Check out AmericanForcesTravel.com for eligibility requirements and to sign up.

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#### Refer a friend to the Air Force Reserves

The Get1Now Program is a great way to keep the Air Force Reserve strong. Reservists can refer people they believe will make a great addition to the Air Force Reserve. Once a referral is verified as a qualified lead, the Reservist becomes eligible for one of many prizes. Visit the Get1Now website for info on how to refer candidates and to see the various prizes available at www.Get1Now.us.

# A message from Lt. Gen. Scobee:



Heroes,

At the direction of the CSAF, and in line with our priority to "Develop Resilient Leaders," all units will implement a Resilience Tactical Pause (RTP) due to our concern for the health of our Airmen. The intent is to get after this as soon

as practicable. I've asked the CSAF to give us until 31 December but we will front load as much as possible. Use the time you think necessary to make this pause count.

Here's what the Command Chief and I see: Last year at this point we had one Airman that had taken their life...this year, we've had 11. This tactical pause is not just about Airmen hurting themselves, it's about the health and resiliency of our force. If we focus on the mental/psychological, physical, social, moral and spiritual health of our Airmen, we will have Airmen who will choose healthy behavior when confronted with adversity. However, the Command Chief and I are not only focused on how we all react to adversity but also how we build the skills to preempt the circumstances that cause adversity. This way Airmen aren't faced with a desperate choice that might include self-harm; if they are faced with desperate choices, they are equipped to handle it!

By setting aside time, we will be able to connect and engage with our Reserve Citizen Airmen (military and civilian) on a more interpersonal level... and really get at the heart of taking care of our Airmen and each other. If your Command Team's mindset is that you want to ensure a culture where your Airmen feel valued for the contributions they bring, you are on the right path. People who feel valued don't hurt themselves. Additionally, the tyranny of distance and time are tough problems for our Command Teams. 10 of the 11 suicides we have had, the members were not in status. So your challenge is how do I ensure my Airmen know that they are ALWAYS my Airmen...we DO NOT care what status they're in...they are ALWAYS part of our family and we always have resources to take care of an Airman in distress...Tim and I will cash that check 100% of the time!

Please make this experience valuable for your team. Refer to the RTP attachment [sent through command channels] for additional details [and POC information].

Our Airmen are our most vital weapon system and we must take measures to ensure their well-being and keep their faith. The Command Chief and I "own" this problem...we need your help to take ownership as well.

# **RIO Connect Mobile Wingman App**

The RIO Connect Mobile Wingman App is the official mobile app of the Headquarters Readiness and Integration Organization (HQ RIO)

